

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
PACIFIC MACKEREL HARVEST GUIDELINE FOR 2005/2006 FISHERY

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) heard a report from Dr. Kevin Hill of the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) regarding the Pacific mackerel stock assessment and proposed harvest guideline for the 2005/2006 season. Dr. Hill reported that the 2005/2006 assessment, developed using the new ASAP model, resulted in a biomass estimate of 101,147 mt, slightly higher than in the prior year.

Based on the most recent information, the CPSMT is recommending a harvest guideline of 17,419 mt for the 2005/2006 season.

Based on this harvest guideline, the CPSAS is recommending a directed fishery for 13,419 mt to begin on July 1, 2005. After the directed fishery quota is reached, the fishery would revert to an incidental-catch-only fishery. There will be 4,000 mt as a set aside for the incidental fishery. The CPSAS recommends a 40% incidental catch rate when Pacific mackerel are landed with other coastal pelagic species (CPS), except that up to 1 mt of Pacific mackerel could be landed without landing any other CPS.

The CPSAS recommends an inseason review of the mackerel season for the March 2006 Council meeting, with the possibility of re-opening the directed fishery as an automatic action if a sufficient amount of the harvest guideline remains.

PFMC
06/15/05